

goest." So when Isaac was going to Padan Aaram when Moses was going to Pharaoh, when Joshua was leading the people into the land of promise, when Gideon was going over against the Midianites, and when Solomon was undertaking the kingdom, the promise was, "Fear not I am with thee." Now when Jesus Christ had given the great commission to his disciples, he repeats the Jehovah promise that threads the whole Old Testament: "I am with you." The presence of God thru the Old Testament, and even during the ministry of Christ was a presence *with* men; but in the New Testament dispensation, and after the coming of the Holy Ghost it was to be a presence *in* men (Jno. 14: 17), the Holy Spirit represented to us as the present and all-sufficient God. Oh, what comfort this brings to our oppressed and struggling life! A God "able to make all grace abound to us, so that we always, having all sufficiency in all things, may abound unto every good work."

Jesus says: "He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit." John 15: 5. The spirit filled life is necessarily a fruitful life, producing the fragrant fruits of love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, faith, etc. Gal. 5: 22, 23.

Without the Holy Ghost, we are unequal to the journey of life, we are unfit for the service of the Master, and we are unwarranted in attempting to preach the gospel, or to win a soul for Christ. Oh, let us wait at his feet, let us learn our weakness, let us realize our nothingness, let us get emptied for his filling, and then baptized with the Holy Ghost, or filled anew with his utmost fulness; and we shall go forth, not to our work, but to his, and find that "He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, to whom be glory now and forever. Amen." ALICE HARLEY.

Allentown, Pa.

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."—Matt. 11: 28.

This promise is most precious to me because we must have it and none else can give it. Wealth can not purchase the rest that Jesus gives us. There are people living in mansions who know nothing about the rest Jesus gives. Lift the curtain and see the anguish brought on by the infidelity of wife or husband. See the card tables or the wine cup. Such have never known of the rest Jesus gives. Honor can not give it. Our late President McKinley had honor, but it was Jesus who softened the pillow under his dying head. Jesus was the only one who could give rest in that trying hour. The call is wide as human misery yet limited to the weary. If you are not yet tired of the world, of self and sin, it is not for you, you will not listen. But listen, ye weary! He who calls knows the weariness of doing and bearing. He was the weariest that ever walked the earth. He bore the burden of a

world's sin. "I will rest you," is the literal translation, which means more than give you rest. Rest is not so much what he gives us as what he is to us. And so he says not "I will give you rest" but "I will rest you." Oh! that we might know more about the rest Jesus would be to us. Let us surrender all of self and selfish thoughts and be wholly under the guidance of Jesus. This promise brings to my mind these verses of a song we used to sing.

"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear.
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds
And drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the troubled breast,
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary, rest.

MRS. GRACE RENCH.

If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you.—John 15: 7.

If history has demonstrated one fact more clearly than others, it is this; that the church has been the dominant factor in civilization.

As we stand upon the threshold of the twentieth century and take a retrospective view of the past we are made to wonder how it is that we as individuals have become what we are; but not only are we struck with astonishment at our individual condition and attainments, but are equally amazed at the marvelous developments and achievements of the nation. The answer comes as if from the very presence of God. It is the power of Christianity working thru its instrument, the church.

But we are not content with knowing the power of Christianity as manifested in the lives of men. We must go a little farther. What has made the church such a potent agent in civilizing the world? True there are many things that have contributed to her power. She has had many loyal contributors in money, time and energy, but there is a stronger force, a higher means, a loftier source of power. It is the unwavering faith of the church in the promises of God.

The church of the twentieth century is different in many respects from the earlier church; but in the one great purpose of realizing the fulfilment of the divine promise in her own life and in the lives of men she is the same.

The master indeed made a very precious promise when he said, "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." John 15: 7. This promise, you observe, like all promises of sacred writ is based upon a condition and in order to make the teaching of abiding plain, he uses the figure of the true vine. As the branch is attached to the vine so we need to be related to Christ; and as the branch depends upon the vine for life so we must depend Christ for life and fruit-bearing. This promise is very comprehensive and yet very plain. God's promises

not only show his attitude toward us but show us plainly what we must do to realize the fulfilment of the promise. In this promise there is a means and an end, the prerequisite to the obtaining of the good. So this promise is conditioned on our abiding in him and his word in us. For by our abiding in him and he in us we will never ask amiss. Therefore we see in this the comprehensiveness of the promise. Oh! that we might more fully comply with our Master's conditions of his promise and receive greater blessings and a fuller measure of his grace. When we learn to stand upon these promises by faith then we shall have solved one of the great problems of Christendom. May God help us all to abide in him and submit ourselves more fully to him for then our religion shall be constant, personal and practical and not theoretical.

C. I. SHOCK.

PULPIT ECHOES

He Saved Others

"He saved others let him save himself," were the words of the jostling crowd around the cross. Seen in the light of today's fuller understanding of Jesus of Nazareth we know he would not save himself at the expense of humanity. How different the spirit we too often show today, when we, to save ourselves from trouble, or sometimes unkind treatment, ridicule and possibly humiliating failure, do not work or sacrifice for Christ or our fellow man. We need to get ourselves into the spirit of the eleventh chapter of Hebrews if we want to get into us the spirit of "better things to come."

E. E. HASKINS.

Do One Thing

"This one thing I do." Paul, in a sense, was a man of "one idea." Better have one idea, and go thru life battling for it, than to have one hundred concepts, and press none of them. Paul left his impress upon humanity because he did the one thing well. The great need of the church today is men of convictions—burning convictions—for *one thing* in the kingdom of God. Brother, try to do one thing *well* if you would shine for God.

G. W. RENCH.

Strengthening the Weak Points—Rev. 3: 2

In all useful callings men should be well fortified and qualified. There can be no *real* success without it. Especially is this true from a Christian standpoint. The Christian is beset with enemies from within and from without. He is engaged in desperate struggle against all manner of evil. In skillful warfare the weak points need special attention.

Skillful generals all recognize this fact. Attacks center on weak points. The devil is skillful and understands this. We should guard against weakness of faith, indifferent affections and coldness of love. If we grow weak along these lines the devil will take the